

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A clamping mechanism for clamping at least two structural components to each other, said clamping mechanism comprising a clamping bail forming a clamping opening, a first clamping section (9) carried by said clamping bail to face across said clamping opening, a second clamping section (10) carried by said clamping bail to face across said clamping opening in alignment with said first clamping section (9), said first clamping section comprising a guide element (11) for guiding adapted to guide a drill bit ~~[[DB7]]~~ (DB) driven by a drilling tool, a removable centering pin (12) axially movable in said guide element (11) for aiding in positioning a first structural component of said at least two structural components in a correct drilling position, and wherein said second clamping section (10) comprises a pressure member (15) and a clamping drive for pressing said pressure member (15) against a second structural component of said at least two structural components and against said first structural component to establish a clamped position for said at least two structural components, ~~said clamping mechanism further comprising wherein said guide element is an adapter (20) secured to said first clamping section (9) in axial alignment with said guide element for holding a drill in an aligned drilling position, and wherein said adapter (20) and~~ comprises a locking device for securely locking said ~~[[drill]]~~ drilling tool to said first clamping section (9).

Claims 2 to 4 (Canceled).

1 **5. (Currently amended)** The clamping mechanism of claim 1,
2 wherein said locking device of said adapter (20) is a chuck
3 for locking said ~~drill~~ drilling tool to said first clamping
4 section (9).

1 **6. (Original)** The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said
2 clamping drive comprises a cam (13A), an eccentric mounting
3 (14) rotatably securing said cam (13A) to said second
4 clamping section (10) and a drive lever (13) secured to
5 said cam for rotating said cam against said pressure
6 member (15).

1 **7. (Original)** The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said
2 clamping drive comprises a clamping screw (21) rotatably
3 mounted in said second clamping section, said clamping
4 screw having a free end forming said pressure member (15).

1 **8. (Original)** The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said
2 clamping drive comprises a clamping push rod (22) slidably
3 and rotatably mounted in said second clamping section and
4 an operating lever (23) secured to one end of said clamping
5 push rod, said clamping push rod having a free end forming
6 said pressure member (15).

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- 4 -

1 9. (Original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said
2 clamping drive comprises a piston cylinder device mounted
3 to said second clamping section, said piston cylinder
4 device comprising a piston having a free end forming said
5 pressure member (15).

1 10. (Original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, further
2 comprising a suction device (17) communicating with said
3 guide element (11) for sucking drill chips out of said
4 guide element.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

1 12. (Original) The clamping mechanism of claim 1, wherein said
2 pressure member (15) comprises a free end for contacting
3 said other structural component and a dead end bore or
4 cavity (15A) in said pressure member in axial alignment
5 with said guide element (11), said dead end bore opening
6 into said free end of the pressure member wherein said free
7 end of the pressure member, in a clamping position
8 surrounds a structural component area through which a hole
9 is being drilled and a drill bit tip can enter into said
10 bore or cavity (15A) when a hole drilling is completed.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]